

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached "Replacement Sheet" 1/1, which includes Figures 1, 2 and 3, replaces the original sheet 1/1.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Applicant has amended Fig. 2 as suggested by the Examiner. A proposed Replacement Sheet 1 of 1 is enclosed.

Applicant has also corrected paragraph 0039 as suggested by the Examiner.

Claims 1-3, 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Weimper et al., No. 6,757,594. In addition, dependent Claims 4-6 and 9-11 stand rejected under USC § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Weimper et al. in view of Falcone et al., No. 5,396,264. Applicant has amended independent Claims 1 and 8 and added new Claims 12-15 to better define the present invention. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully solicited.

As is generally known, the selection of a menu item from a plurality of option menus organized hierarchically with a main menu and plural sub-menus, is done by means of an operating unit which is generally provided as a so-called rotary/push button. By rotating the rotary/push button, a selection mark or cursor may be moved from one menu item to the next, and the activation, i.e. the selection of a menu item, is carried out by pushing the rotary/push button.

For speeding up navigation within the various option menus, a so-called hard key (push button switch) is often provided which allows the operator to jump from any menu level to the main menu.

If the user of the in-car computer system intends to jump from a sub-menu assigned to a main menu item to another main menu item, the user has to first push, for example, the hard key to jump back to the main menu, then turn the rotary/push button until the cursor is on the desired main menu item, and finally push again the rotary/push button to activate the other desired main menu item to reach the underlying desired sub-menu item.

For example with respect to Fig. 1 of the present application, if the sub-menu 1 of main menu HM1 is displayed and the user wants to jump to sub-menu 1 assigned to main menu HM3, according to the prior art he has to first jump back to the main menu level, then select the HM3 menu item and finally activate it by pushing the rotary/push button switch. Then the sub-menu 1 assigned to the main menu HM3 is displayed.

This is a standard way to navigate through hierarchically ordered menus.

In contrast thereto, the present invention is provided with a switching member whose repeated operation causes the control device to activate only the individual menu items of the main menu in a predetermined order.

In other words, the function of jumping back to the main menu, moving the cursor onto a menu item of the main menu and activating this menu item, in order to reach the sub-menu level of a different main menu item, is achieved solely by operating the switching member. Each further operation of the switching member activates the next main menu item. Hence, by repeated operation of the switching member, the menu items of the sub-menus may be displayed consecutively on the monitor, whereas after reaching the last menu item, the control device jumps back to the first main menu item. The individual sub-menu items of the respective displayed sub-menus may then be selected and activated by means of the operating unit in a known manner.

The in-car computing system disclosed in Weimper et al. does not teach or suggest such a solution. Rather, Weimper et al. is silent with respect to enhanced navigation through menu levels. Weimper et al. merely teaches a solution which allows the operator to move the cursor from one hyperlink to the next on, for example, an internet page, wherein a hyperlink detecting unit detects all hyperlinks displayed.

Weimper et al. does not disclose a system comprising a switching member which causes the control device to activate only the individual menu items of the main menu in a predetermined order.

With respect to Fig. 2 of this prior art document, it is pointed out in column 4, lines 32 to 37, the selection and activation of the menu items 41 to 46 is made by means of the rotary-/push button switch 27, wherein a rotation of the rotary switch

moves a selection mark 47 from one menu item to the next. The activation of this selected menu item is made by pushing the push button switch 27.

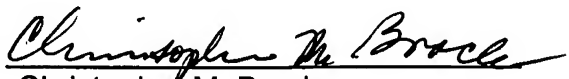
It is therefore apparent from this paragraph of Weimper et al. that the selection of a menu item is carried out in the standard manner as described above. It is not possible to select and activate the menu items 41-46 in a predetermined order by just pushing a specific switch.

Independent Claims 1 and 8 and new Claims 12-15 have been added to better define these distinctions. Moreover, the additional citation to Falcone et al. does not overcome the noted deficiencies in the disclosure of the Weimper et al. patent.

Accordingly, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 
Christopher M. Brock
Reg. No. 27313

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

CMB:bg